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Approved For Release 2003/05/28 : CIA-RDP61S00527A000200130020-0

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Approved: [REDACTED]

ONE PROJECT S-172

SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS URGE INCREASED CIVIL DEFENSE EFFORTS

Note: This is an uncoordinated report prepared for [REDACTED] and represents only the immediate views of [REDACTED]. Not to be quoted or referenced.

[REDACTED]
7 May 1957
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Soviet military leaders urge increased civil defense efforts

On 24 April, both Pravda and Red Star carried accounts of a civil defense meeting of the Moscow Oblast Defense Group (AKTIV). The meeting was addressed by Marshal Malinowski, chief of the Soviet ground forces, Col. Gen. Belev, DOSAAF chief, and Maj. Gen. Filippenko, earlier identified as a tank division commander. The speakers apparently criticized DOSAAF and other organizations in civil defense training. They also called for increased civil defense work among the population coupled with wider use of retired and reserve generals for this training. According to the articles, the Moscow Oblast DOSAAF and Red Cross have 11,000 primary organizations with 1,500,000 members engaged in civil defense activities. [Moscow Oblast population: 10,902,000. 1/]

This is the first indication of increased civil defense activities noted in the Soviet popular daily press in recent months. (C Moscow MA 115, 27 April 1957)

COMMENTS:

Keyed to the recent acknowledgement that the USSR faces atomic attack in case of general war, it is probable that Soviet leaders hope further to widen public participation in civil defense training at this time.

There is little doubt that the Soviets have embarked on a program which is aimed at giving every citizen in the USSR a measure of atomic civil defense training. The USSR can require civil defense service by law. 2/ Publications 3/ and broadcasts 4/ have repeatedly emphasized

that all the population must receive appropriate defense training. Most popular level civil defense training is the responsibility of DOSAAF; the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies having responsibility for first aid training and the preparation of medical auxiliaries.

Training of DOSAAF instructors in Moscow for civil defense against atomic weapons was first disclosed in a mid-1955 issue of Voyenniye Znaniya, a DOSAAF monthly.^{5/} Local DOSAAF courses for the training of instructors were reported during 1956, ^{6/} and some anti-atomic defense training for "workers" ^{7/} was probably carried on in enterprises by DOSAAF units. ^{8/}

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This meeting of defense activists of the Moscow Oblast follows a similar conference at Kiev (Jan 25). Listed as attending the Kiev Oblast conference were DOSAAF leaders, chairmen of city and rayon Executive Committees, secretaries of the Oblast and rayon Party Committees, and Marshals Budenny and Chuikov. ^{11/} It seems probable that similar conferences would be held nearly concurrently in other large cities.

It is noteworthy that leading top-level military figures have given speeches and published articles urging increased attention to civil defense during 1956 and 1957. ^{12/} Reserve officers and non-commissioned officers have been urged to assist DOSAAF in the past. ^{13/}

The present article specifies that assistance should be sought from reserve and retired generals. It thus appears that the current civil defense campaign has the full support of the military and that otherwise inactive generals will take part in the civil defense program to furnish prestige and leadership for an expanding training program. They will also be better prepared for active leadership in case of future emergency when they might be called on to perform duties related to civil defense in the zone of the interior.

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